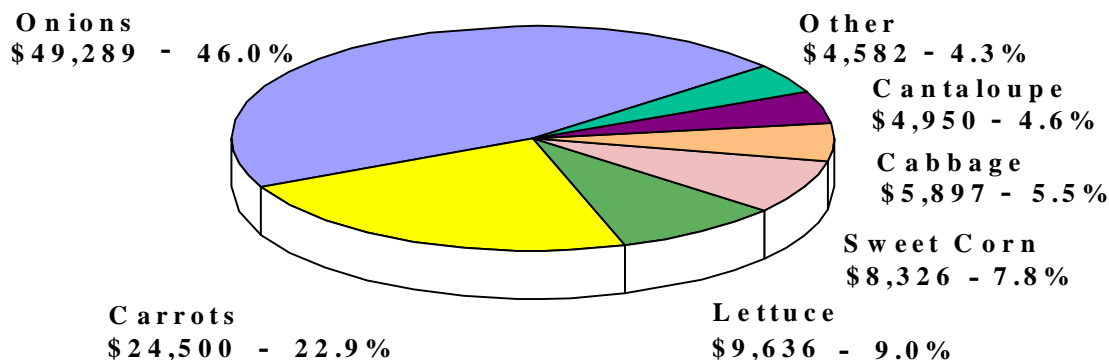


Colorado Vegetable Crops - 1997

Value of Production & % of Total

(Value in \$1,000)



VEGETABLE CROPS - 1997

Vegetable producers in Colorado harvested 10.8 million cwt of fresh market and processing crops during 1997 which had a total value of \$107.2 million, up 18 percent from the \$90.9 million received for the 9.7 million cwt of vegetables produced in 1996. Production was higher than the previous year for carrots, lettuce, onions, and sweet corn. Acreage and production estimates are prepared for only nine vegetable crops. Numerous other vegetable crops are produced in the state but are not surveyed for acreage and production data.

Production of **dry storage onions** in 1997 totaled 5.4 million cwt, up 3 percent from the previous year. The harvested area declined 4 percent to 15,300 acres but the average yield of 350 cwt per acre was 25 cwt above the 1996 average. The quantity of onions expected to be marketed had an estimated value of \$49.3 million compared with \$51.6 million from the 1996 crop. Onions represented 50 percent of the total production and 46 percent of the total value from the nine crops.

Carrots were the second largest vegetable crop produced in the state, accounting for 23 percent of the total production and 23 percent of the total value. Production increased 70 percent from the previous year, to 2.4 million cwt, as a result of more acres harvested and higher yields. Value of the 1997 crop, at \$24.5 million, was more than double a year earlier.

Sweet corn was the third leading vegetable crop, accounting for 9 percent of the total production and 8 percent of the total value. Harvested acreage was up 7 percent but per acre yields were the same as a year earlier and prices were down 5 percent.

Cabbage ranked fourth in production and fifth in value. Value of production, at \$5.9 million, was down 19 percent from a year earlier as a result of lower production and prices.

Lettuce had the fifth highest production and ranked third in terms of value of production. Production was up 11 percent from a year earlier to 660,000 cwt and value of production, at \$9.6 million, was more than double the previous year.

Cantaloupe ranked sixth in both production and value. Production was down 3 percent from 1996 to 330,000 cwt but value was up 35 percent to \$4.95 million.

Cucumbers for pickles production in 1997 was 6,080 tons, down 16 percent from 1996. Value of the 1997 crop, at \$1.09 million, was up 1 percent.

Spinach production totaled 109,000 cwt from 2,100 acres harvested and had a total value of \$3.49 million. There was no production of **processing tomatoes** in Colorado during 1997.